



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

104
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,959	07/11/2003	Elisabeth Defossa	38005-0178	2135
5487	7590	01/24/2005	EXAMINER	
ROSS J. OEHLER AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC. ROUTE 202-206 MAIL CODE: D303A BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807			DAVIS, ZINNA NORTHINGTON	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1625		
DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/616,959	DEFOSSA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zinna Northington Davis	1625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 10/10/2003

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 12/9/2003

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-12 are pending.
2. On November 4, 2004, Applicants have elected the invention of Group I, claims 1-7. At page 29, Table 1, Example 13 is the preferred species.
3. Claims 7-12 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.
4. Claims 1-7 are Markush claims which are generic to the elected invention. These Markush claims lack unity of invention. Accordingly, the Markush type claim will be examined fully with respect to the elected species and further to the extent necessary to determine patentability. See MPEP 803.02.
5. Claims 1-7 are objected on the grounds that the claims are drawn to an improper Markush group. In re Harnisch, 206 USPQ 300, states that a unity of invention exists where compounds included within a Markush group (1) share a common utility and (2) share a substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to that utility. In the instant case, the claimed subject matter does not share a substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to that utility.
6. The requirement for a proper Markush claim is that it includes only substances that in their physical, chemical and physiological characteristics are functionally equivalent. The members of the instant Markush groups possess widely different, physical and chemical properties. The compounds are not considered functionally equivalent and are so diverse that they demonstrate dissimilar and unrelated properties. The mere fact that there is structural similarity in pharmaceutical agents is not in itself reason to render

all the embodiments functionally equivalent. See Brouwer (Reference A), which teaches benzolyurea compounds, are useful as pesticidal and pharmaceutical compositions.

7. The improper Markush groups are radicals are R8, R18, R19, and R20. The examined subject matter is a compound according to formula (I) wherein R8 represents N(R18)(R19) and R18 or R19 represents phenyl. The radicals, R1-R7 and R9-R12, are defined according to claim 1.

8. Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(h).

9. Amending the claims to the elected invention would overcome the improper Markush rejection.

10. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

11. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A. At claims 1 and 2, it is suggested that the phrase "and salts" should read "or a salt".

- B. At claim 2, the radical, R8, excludes phenyl. However, R8 cannot represent phenyl. Clarification is appreciated.
- C. At claims 3, line 6, it is suggested that the phrase "R14,R15 are independently of one another H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl ..." should be amended to read as "R14,R15 independently of one another are H or (C₁-C₆)alkyl ...".
- D. At claims 4-7, a pharmaceutical claim should include the phrase "and an acceptable carrier".

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Brouwer et al (US Patent 4,665,235).

The instantly claimed compounds are disclosed. At columns 1-4, see the benzoylurea compounds. The prior art compounds are useful in the treatment of tumors.

14. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Agro-Kanesho Co., LTD (Reference B03, cited by Applicants).

The instantly claimed compounds are disclosed. At page 450, Table 1, see compounds 1-28.

15. The Information Disclosure Statements filed October 10, 2003 and December 9, 2003 have been considered.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zinna N. Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-0682.

17. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Zinna Davis
Zinna Northington Davis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1625

znd
1.21.2005